

Remarks:

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the non-final Office action dated September 7, 2007, and are being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111. Claims 1, 3-6, 13, 17-20, 24, and 28 are pending in the application. In the Office action, the Examiner (1) rejected claims 1, 3-5, 13, 17, 19, 20, 24, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,666,448 to Sato et al. ("Sato"); and (2) rejected claims 6 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,704,793 to Nicol et al. ("Nicol") in view of Sato.

Applicants traverse the rejections, contending that each of the pending claims is patentable over the cited references, taken alone or in combination. Nevertheless, to expedite issuance of a patent, and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim aspects of the invention that applicants would like to patent now, applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 13, 17, 19, 20, 24, and 28. However, applicants reserve the right to pursue original and/or previously presented forms of the amended claims at a later time. Furthermore, applicants have presented remarks showing that the claims are patentable over the cited references, taken alone or in combination. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments above and the remarks below and prompt allowance of all pending claims.

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I. Amendments to the Claims

The present communication amends claims 1, 3, 13, 17, 19, 20, 24, and 28. Each of the amendments to the claims is fully supported by the application. Exemplary support (or an explanation) for each claim amendment is present in the following table:

<i>Claim(s)</i>	<i>Support (or an Explanation)</i>
1 (Independent)	Page 5, lines 29 and 30; Figures 4 and 5
3	(Addresses a formal issue created by the amendments to claim 1)
13 (Independent)	Page 5, lines 29 and 30; Figures 4 and 7 (Also improves clarity)
17, 19, and 20	(Address formal issues created by the amendments to claim 13)
24 (Independent)	Figures 4 and 7 (Also provides a more uniform style for subject matter recited by "wherein" clauses)
28 (Independent)	Page 5, lines 29 and 30; Figures 4 and 5

II. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

The Examiner rejected all of the pending claims over Sato alone or in combination with Nicol. Applicants traverse the rejections, contending that all of the claims are patentable over the cited references, taken alone or in combination. Nevertheless, for the reasons set forth above, applicants have amended each of the independent claims. All the pending claims are patentable at least for the reasons set forth below.

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A. Claims 1 and 3-6

Independent claim 1, as amended, reads as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing sheet media, comprising:

moving a sheet medium upward by contact of a face of the sheet medium with a roller rotating about an axis of rotation; and

carrying a trailing edge of the sheet medium upward and then over the roller with a member,

wherein the member includes a body and at least one finger projecting from the body, wherein the member is connected to the roller such that the finger member completely orbits the axis of rotation along a circular path, wherein the finger member has a distal tip that is spaced farthest from the body axis of rotation, ~~[[and]]~~ wherein the finger has an undeflected configuration that defines a central axis extending ~~member extends away from the body axis of rotation to the distal tip along a nonlinear path, and~~ wherein the moving includes rotating the roller in a first direction and deflecting the finger member in a second direction opposite to the first direction.

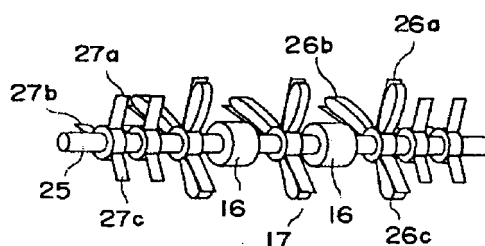
Claim 1 was rejected in the Office action as being anticipated by Sato. However, Sato does not disclose, teach, or suggest every element of amended claim 1. For example, Sato does not disclose, teach, or suggest a finger having "an undeflected configuration that defines a central axis extending away from the axis body to the distal tip along a nonlinear path."

Sato involves an apparatus for handling paper sheets and the like; particularly paper currency. In the Office action, the Examiner referred to elements 17 and 26 of Sato in rejecting the claims. Figure 3 of Sato depicts both elements and is reproduced here to facilitate review. The apparatus of Sato includes a brush roller 17 comprising brushes 26a, 26b, and 26c. Sato further discloses that each of the brushes includes a

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loop-like member and a sheet-like member. In contrast, brushes 27a, 27b, and 27c of brush roller 17 each include only a sheet-like member. Since the Examiner referred to element 26 and not element 27 in the Office action, applicants are interpreting the rejection as being based on the disclosed loop-like member and will direct the following discussion to the loop-like member.

FIG. 3



Sato discloses altering the shape of the loop-like members by contact created as the brush roller rotates within the apparatus. For example, Figures 5 and 6 of Sato, which are reproduced here to facilitate review, respectively illustrate loop-like member 26c with and without its shape deformed by contact.

FIG. 5

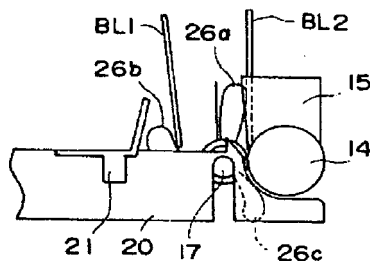
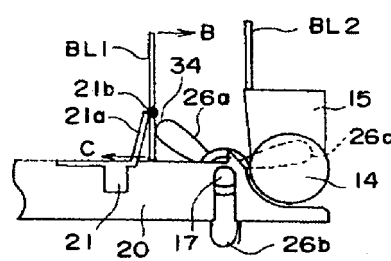


FIG. 6



In the configuration presented in Figure 5, loop-like member 26c is not in an "undeflected configuration." In the configuration presented in Figure 6, loop-like member

26c is symmetrical and defines a central axis that extends along a linear path. Accordingly, loop-like member does not have "an undeflected configuration that defines a central axis extending away from the body to the distal tip along a nonlinear path," as recited by claim 1. Nicol does not correct the defect in Sato. Claim 1 thus should be allowed. In addition, claims 3–6, which depend from claim 1, also should be allowed for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

B. Claims 13 and 17–20

Independent claim 13, as amended, reads as follows:

13. (Currently Amended) A media processing apparatus, comprising:
a rotatable member; and

at least one [[a]] resilient finger member having an exterior surface with opposing convex and concave sides and connected to the rotatable member, the at least one finger [[and]] configured to engage a trailing edge of a sheet medium and lift the trailing edge upward and over the rotatable member as the rotatable member rotates, wherein the rotatable member is configured to rotate in a direction, and wherein the at least one resilient finger member is configured to bend opposite to the direction and toward the concave side upon contact with a face of the sheet medium,

wherein the at least one resilient finger member is configured to have a retracted position and an extended position, wherein the at least one resilient finger member is configured to be placed in the retracted position by contact with a face of the sheet medium and to return to the extended position when the contact is removed, wherein the rotatable member defines a radius, wherein the at least one resilient finger member includes a distal portion configured to be disposed inside the radius in the retracted position and outside the radius in the extended position, and wherein the at least one resilient finger member includes a thinned region at which such member bends selectively in response to the contact with the face of the sheet medium.

Claim 13 was rejected in the Office action as being anticipated by Sato. However, Sato does not disclose, teach, or suggest every element of amended claim 13. For example, Sato does not disclose, teach, or suggest a "finger having an exterior surface with opposing convex and concave sides." In Sato, each loop-like member has an exterior surface with opposing convex sides. In addition, each loop-like member has an interior surface with opposing concave sides. Nicol does not correct the defect in Sato. Claim 13 thus should be allowed. In addition, claims 17–20, which depend from claim 13, also should be allowed for at least the same reasons as claim 13.

C. Claim 24

Independent claim 24, as amended, reads as follows:

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for displacing a sheet of print medium from a direction of movement of the print medium produced by a roller, comprising:

a body configured to be connected to the roller for rotation therewith; and
at least one resilient finger connected to the body and configured to be deflected toward the body, and generally away from the direction of movement, by contact with a face of the print medium to permit movement of the medium along the path and also being configured to engage a trailing edge of the print medium to carry the trailing edge away from the path as the resilient finger rotates,

wherein the at least one resilient finger includes a proximal portion disposed adjacent the body, ~~[[and]]~~ wherein the proximal portion includes a thinned region formed by a cavity defined by an exterior surface of the resilient finger, wherein the resilient finger ~~at which the at least one resilient finger bends sharply~~ at the thinned region upon contact with the face of the print medium to produce deflection, ~~[[;]]~~ and wherein the resilient finger is configured to vertically lift the print medium.

Claim 24 was rejected in the Office action as being anticipated by Sato. However, Sato does not disclose, teach, or suggest every element of amended claim 24. For example, Sato does not disclose, teach, or suggest a finger including "a thinned region formed by a cavity defined by an exterior surface of the finger." In Sato, the exterior surface of each loop-like member is convex and thus free of cavities. Nicol does not correct the defect in Sato. Claim 24 thus should be allowed.

D. Claim 28

Independent claim 28, as amended, reads as follows:

28. (Currently Amended) A method of processing sheet media, comprising:

moving a sheet medium upward by contact of a face of the sheet medium with a roller rotating about an axis of rotation;

carrying a trailing edge of the sheet medium upward and then over the roller with a member including a body and at least one finger projecting from the body; and

spacing the trailing edge from the roller using gravity after carrying,

wherein the member is connected to the roller such that the finger ~~member~~ completely orbits the axis of rotation along a circular path, wherein the finger ~~member~~ has a distal tip that is spaced farthest from the axis of rotation, and wherein the finger has an unbiased configuration in which the finger ~~member~~ extends away from the body ~~axis of rotation~~ to the distal tip in an undivided fashion along a nonlinear path.

Claim 28 was rejected in the Office action as being anticipated by Sato. However, Sato does not disclose, teach, or suggest every element of amended claim 28. For example, Sato does not disclose, teach, or suggest a finger that has "an unbiased configuration in which the finger extends away from the body to the distal tip in an undivided fashion

along a nonlinear path." In particular, each loop-like member of Sato extends in a "divided fashion," in order to form a loop. Nicol does not correct the defect in Sato. Claim 28 thus should be allowed.

III. Conclusion

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance covering all of the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

KOLISCH HARTWELL, P.C.



Walter W. Kamstein

Registration No. 35,565

520 S.W. Yamhill Street, Suite 200

Portland, Oregon 97204

Telephone: (503) 224-6655

Facsimile: (503) 295-6679

Attorney for Applicants

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner J. Severson, Group Art Unit 3653, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (571) 273-8300 on December 7, 2007.



Christie A. Doolittle

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